

Time

18 November 2002
"Coolest Inventions 2002"



around the house



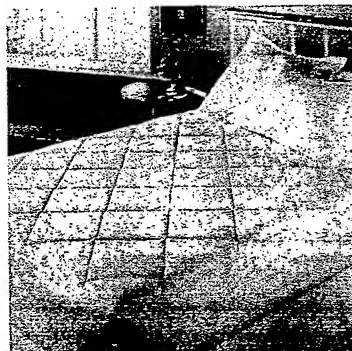
TAKE A SEAT

No one ever bothers to reinvent the wheel, but chairs are another matter. Take the new EVA DVA Child Chairs, for example. Made of the same soft, nontoxic foam used in athletic mats, they come in vibrant colors and can be stacked like oversize blocks to create free-form sculptures or geometric room partitions. Available in 12 color combinations, including orange-red, green-blue and yellow-gray, the chairs are designed for children ages 3 to 6 but are supposed to be sturdy enough to hold adults weighing as much as 300 lbs. That might be a tight squeeze.

INVENTORS Lawrence and Sharon Tarantino, Tarantino Furniture

AVAILABILITY Now, \$80 a chair

TO LEARN MORE www.evadva.com



UNDER COVER

Are you having a love-hate affair with your blankets? Do you throw them off at 2 a.m. because you're too hot and then desperately cocoon at 6 a.m. to warm up? Perhaps you need Outlast's new Adaptive Comfort bedding. It introduces climate control where it counts—under the covers. The pillow, mattress pad and duvet cover look quite conventional—boring even, as they come only in white. But each is sewn with a layer of tiny capsules, called thermacules, that absorb, store and release heat as needed to regulate temperature. A version of this "phase change" material, originally developed for NASA for use in astronaut gloves, has appeared in ski boots, ski helmets and other cold-weather gear.

INVENTOR Outlast Technologies

AVAILABILITY Now, \$20 to \$100

TO LEARN MORE www.outlast.com

DANIEL BLANK FOR TIME

the coolest
inventions
of 2002



(AND NOW FOR THE BIG TESTS)

President Bush and
Karl Rove, the G.O.P.'s
master strategist



Cellular molar



Virtual keyboard



Waterproof cashmere

Cutting-edge fins

A foam-rubber
microphone, a
stealth surfboard,
a genetically
modified tomato—
among this year's crop
of fresh new ideas, here
are some of our favorites

coolest inventions 2002

PLUS: Web Shopping
and the Best of Tech

The Sputnik tossable
microphone, tops
the video-equipped
Spyfish submarine



By MARYANNE MURRAY BUECHNER, LEV GROSSMAN and ANITA HAMILTON

COOLEST INVENTIONS



JUST SAY OHM

Nothing sets the mood for work or play better than the perfect light, so why limit yourself to dim or bright, fluorescent or incandescent? The new Theraple lamps look a little like Rothko paintings, with linear gorgeous reds, yellows and greens softly melting into one another. Housed in brushed-aluminum frames, they range from 2 ft. to 6 1/2 ft. long and double as postmodern works of art. But they are more than just pretty lights. Powered by the same fluorescent bulbs used for light therapy (to treat seasonal affective disorder during winter months, for example), the lamps may actually brighten your spirits. And the colored glows can be mixed and matched, so you can choose a yellow-green combination to energize you in the kitchen or a purple-red to get things started in the bedroom.

INVENTOR Daniel Raiche
AVAILABILITY Now, \$1,300 to \$1,700
TO LEARN MORE www.snowlabdesign.com

SPIN CONTROL

Not just another bagless vacuum cleaner, the Dyson DC07 has a brand-new way to take grime out of your carpet. It's called cyclonic separation. Whirling dirt and air within its eight cylindrical cyclones at speeds up to 800 m.p.h., the machine uses centrifugal force to trap the dirt and expel the air. Because there is no filter to clog, the DC07 never loses its suction. Its liquid filter is made from the same material as a car's air filter, so it acts as a shield. And, pushing the collected dirt is as simple as pulling the trigger.

INVENTOR James Dyson
AVAILABILITY Now, \$299
TO LEARN MORE www.dyson.com

PHOTOGRAPH BY DENNIS GALANTE FOR TIME; LAMP COURTESY TOTEN DESIGN, NYC

around the house

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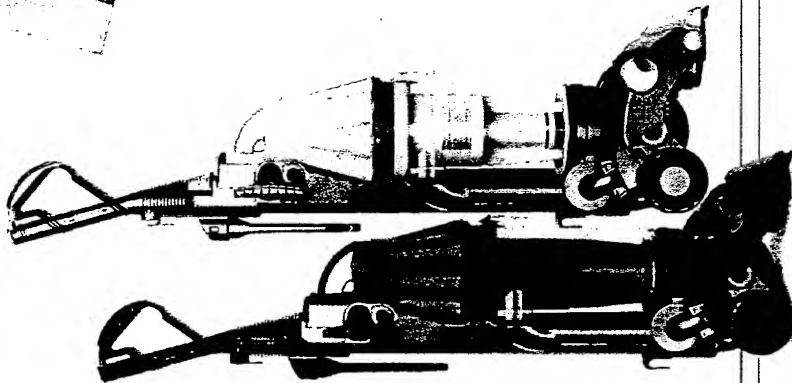
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Hot Seat!

Julie Edelman



What's lightweight, durable and washable, and comes in 12 combos? The 'hot' new EVA DVA child's chair designed for 1 years of age. The chair is made from soft, non-toxic foam and is incredibly sturdy. They are the design-child of two New Jersey architects, Lawrence and Sharon Tarantino who saw a need for children's furniture that was fun and functional. The result was a modular design that allows your kids to stack the EVA DVA chairs in a variety of configurations or offers you a creative way to section off a room. They're perfect for adults! For more information visit their website at www.evadva.com



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Dr. Patricia Lange Rogers
Washington Post Staff Writer

Mangel is a prime example of the new breed of manufacturers catering to the booming youth market. He has seen the future, and it's under-

By ELLIS PIERCE



Abstract

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...the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
to be featured in their collection.



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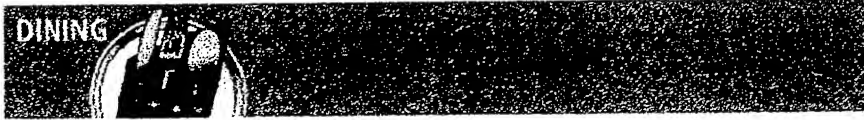
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EYE ON DESIGN

So Young, So Stylish

By Patricia Dane Rogers
Washington Post Staff Writer
Thursday, June 13, 2002; Page H01

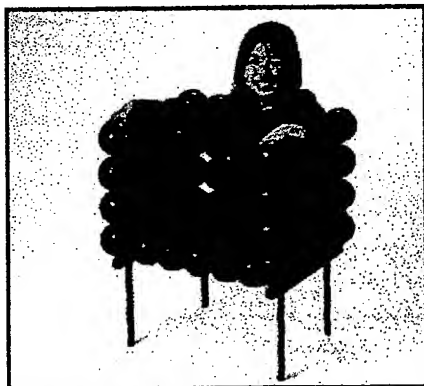
NEW YORK

Last year, Larry Mangel, one of three vendors showing kids' furnishings at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair, felt a bit like the Lone Ranger displaying his designer dollhouse and candy-colored chairlets.

This year, he had plenty of company. More than a dozen designers and manufacturers showed up here with cool ideas for the small-fry market, an all-time high in ICFF's 14-year history.

"There were so many of us, I was a little nervous about the competition," says Mangel, CEO of Philadelphia-based Bozart Toys. He needn't have worried: Eliciting smiles of delight this year was a Bozart chair made of bright red mini-soccer balls, designed by Brazilian brothers Fernando and Humberto Campana.

The ICFF, an annual four-day trade fair held each May, is an occasion for designers, manufacturers and retailers -- including buyers for design-savvy museum shops -- to search out the best of the new from here and abroad. The crowds prowling the vast Jacob K. Javits Convention Center past aisle after aisle of slick Italian kitchens and the latest in lighting this year also passed a tower of pint-size striped stacking chairs, translucent tables shaped like yo-yos in hot pink, orange, turquoise and lime, and a wee wood chair from Denmark with sculptural backspat shaped like a wishbone.



Mini-soccer balls threaded on steel tubing add up to the "Bolas" chair from Bozart Toys. (Courtesy Bozart Toys)

"Kids' furniture is finally catching up with the rest of contemporary design. It's about time," said David Shearer, an owner of the two trend-setting Totem home furnishings galleries in Lower Manhattan. "ICFF is viewed as an adult show, so it was exciting to see so many real designers creating colorful, functional, quality furniture for kids."

Mangel is a prime example of the new breed of manufacturers catering to the booming youth market: He has seen the future, and it's under the age of 12.

A former art dealer, he launched Bozart in 1996 after browsing a toy fair with his wife, Debbie, then a buyer for the educational toy chain Zany Brainy. He was not impressed with what he saw and was sure his artist friends could do better. "I realized we knew some of the

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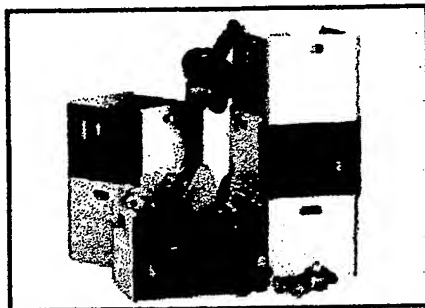
SAUDI ARABIA

SCOTLAND

SINGAPORE

TANZANIA

biggest talents around," he said. "Why not ask them for their ideas?"



Stacking crates by Roberto Gil of Casa Kids. (Courtesy Casa Kids)
Rashid.

He started producing high-design toys -- a jack-in-the-box and marionettes. Two years ago, he hit the big time when the Museum of Modern Art splashed Bozart's contemporary Kaleidoscope dollhouse, with its see-through sliding wall panels and designer furnishings, across the centerspread of its Christmas catalogue. He backed another winner last year with a colorful translucent Kapsule chair for sitting and stowing, and a chess set, both by design powerhouse Karim

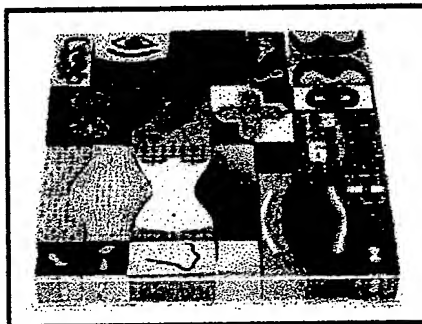
For this spring's show, Mangel brought in more Rashid designs, including rubber building blocks, a backgammon set and Kapsule storage tables in the same Day-Glo colors as last year's chairs.



Bozart Toys commissioned Karim Rashid to design the colorful "Kapsule" storage chairs and tables as well as a chess set. (Courtesy Bozart Toys)

Throw in such pieces as the red "Bolas" soccer-ball chair by the Campana brothers, "Knock-Off Lamps" shaped like glowing bowling pins and a table with a reversible green or orange top by industrial designer Josh Owens, and a "Flip Clock" with a different image for every second and minute from Japanese artist Yoshitomo Nara, and Mangel figures he quadrupled his line in a year.

Mangel. "We really believe the world will be a better place if children and adults alike are surrounded by thoughtful design."

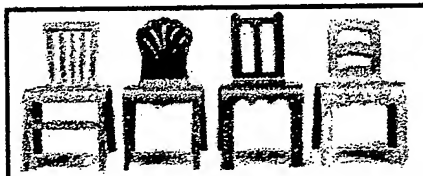


Rubber building blocks by Karim Rashid for Bozart Toys. (Courtesy Bozart Toys)

As with most furniture fairs, many products unveiled at ICFF were prototypes awaiting orders from buyers before going into production. Some are so new, they don't yet appear on company Web sites, but most -- including the soccer ball chair -- will be available through retail sources by fall (www.bozart.com).

cushion, or chartreuse with turquoise -- that glows from within when someone sits on it. It was shown by Totem U.K., a British affiliate of the New York-based Totem Design Group LLC.

"Kids will make a beeline for it," predicted Shearer, who said he was putting in an order (www.totemdesign.com).



"Eeny, Meeny, Miney and Moe," kid-friendly seating in molded plywood from Leland International. (Courtesy Leland International)

Shearer also admired "Casa Kids," a line of rounded, modular pieces that included an adjustable desk/hutch combo that accommodates a computer; several chairs including a rocker with drawers and storage cubbies; and colorful stacking crates that hold toys for now, grown-up hanging files later.

"People underestimate kids and make cartoony, silly things for them," said their creator, Roberto Gil, a graduate of Harvard's School of Architecture and Design. "I try to get into children's minds and understand how they play, how they sit and how they react. They like things that move, places to put things, and holes and slots just the right size for little fingers, so they can lift and pick toys up easily."

The storage crates in green and orange were his latest invention -- both functional and fun for play. "Kids could connect four of them with ropes," Gil said. "They could add casters and drag them around like a train."

The collection can be seen on his Casa Kids Web site (www.casakids.com), and some of the pieces are already sold through Totem Design (www.totemdesign.com) and through the Museum of Modern Art (800-447-6662 or www.momastore.org).

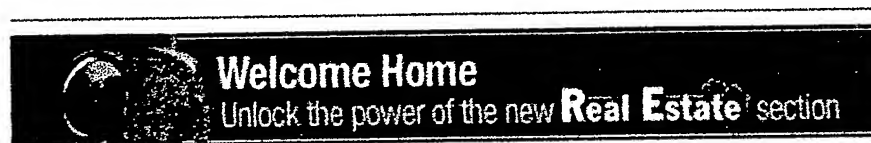
Success at events like ICFF is measured not only by what sells, but to whom. Getting a nod from a museum shop carries a particular cachet. Sharon and Lawrence Tarantino, a New Jersey husband and wife architectural team trying their hand at design for children for the first time, got lucky. EVA DVA (www.evadva.com), their new line of stacking chairs and benches made of a rubbery foam more commonly used for floor mats and flip-flops, was tapped both by MoMA and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art to be featured in their catalogues.

"First time out, we hit the jackpot," said Sharon Tarantino.

Other child-size treasures at the fair:

- A scaled-down version 1950 classic, the Wishbone Chair by Danish master Hans J. Wegner manufactured by Carl Hansen & Son (www.carlhansen.dk).
- Eco-friendly beanbag chairs that look like tomatoes, pears and smiley faces by Eazy Bean of San Francisco (www.eazybean.com).
- "Eeny, Meeny, Miney and Moe," a pastel quartet traditionally styled chairs sized for kids from Leland International of Ann Arbor, Mich. (Leland's president, Tim Korzon, calls them "the kind of chairs that Martha Stewart might have wanted if she'd found them at a garage sale" (800-859-7510).

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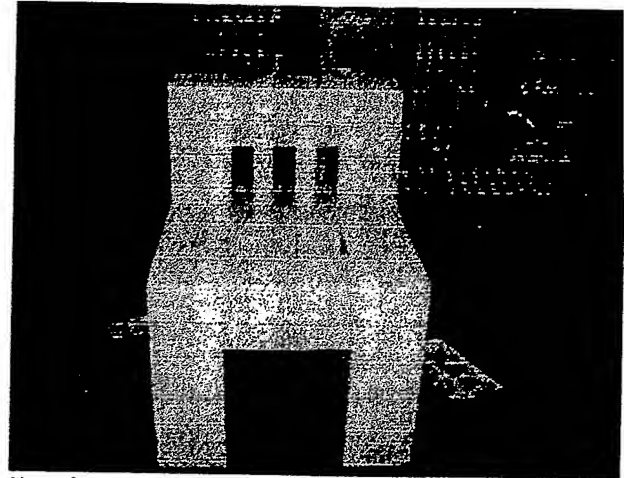
Kid Stuff from Two Architects

By Cathy Lang Ho
Metropolis Writer
ICFF 2002

Conferences

Two ICFF first-timers, architects Lawrence and Sharon Tarantino, are introducing a line of children's furniture called EVA DVA.

The colorful kid-sized products are comprised of thick slices of soft, tactile, CFC-free foam (found frequently in children's toys), laminated with a nontoxic adhesive. But these pieces are sturdy. The thickness of the foam and the products' proportions make them strong enough for full-grown adults to stand on.



Manufacturer: Tarantino Furniture
Designer: Lawrence and Sharon Tarantino
Product(s): EVA DVA
Photo: Cathy Lang Ho

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